



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail calpeek@aol.com

VOL. XXI
No. 20

MAY 17, 1999

EL TORO: THE BATTLE OVER AN AIRPORT AT THIS FORMER MARINE BASE STILL GOING ON.

Editor's note: If you live or work in Orange County, then you know about this very hot topic. For those outside of O.C. who thought the conversion of El Toro Marine Corps Air Station into an international civilian airport was a done deal, guess again. Here's Part I of our update & analysis...

...El Toro is once again on the front burner on high heat because those opposed to the reuse of this former military base as an international airport are now on the street collecting signatures for yet a 3rd local initiative aimed at stopping a new airport. The initiative drive is being spearheaded by Irvine Councilmembers Larry Agran and Dave Christensen. The initiative is called the Safe & Healthy Communities Initiative. The lead committee is called Citizens for a Safe & Healthy Community, with attorney Jeff Metzger as the chair...

...Two other groups are assisting in this volunteer effort: Project 99 (an educational committee) and Taxpayers for Responsible Planning. The anti-El Toro coalition needs to collect 71,000 signatures by September to qualify for the March 2000 ballot. San Diego-based Campaign Strategies is the lead consultant for the anti-airport group. The initiative requires Orange Co. to prepare an EIR on any proposed airport, toxic dump or jail – and then requires a 2/3rds vote for final approval...

...No one knows for sure if this really will stop the El Toro plan. In '94 voters narrowly approved Measure A to move ahead with planning for a new airport at El Toro. Two years later the airport opponents tried to stop El Toro with Measure S and it lost. And opponents haven't won in court either. But the two sides do agree about this: the battle over El Toro is the *Full*

Employment Act of the New Millennium for attorneys, consultants, urban planners and land use experts. And most also agree that the fight over El Toro's future will drag on for the next 10-12 years – or longer...

...So bitter is this dispute that there's a North/South split in the county. It's almost worse than Water Wars. Among the cities, northern Newport Beach is in favor of the new airport at El Toro and southern Irvine is leading the charge against the airport. And the bitterness has spilled over to impact other public policy issues in the county. For example, Irvine has threatened to pull out of the O.C. Fire Authority agreement over this airport issue...

...FYI: Airport opponents think time is on their side. They claim that some new polling shows a gradual shift away from support for a new airport at El Toro. Why the shift? Because there aren't any solid answers to a number of key questions, such as what happens to John Wayne Airport? Or if El Toro moves ahead, in which direction will the planes take off? Next week: figuring out which politicians, groups and companies support or oppose El Toro. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UNZ AND CALIF. U.S. HOUSE GOP CAN'T AGREE ON REAPPORTIONMENT STRATEGY.

Editor's note: GOP political maverick Ron Unz and leaders of the Calif. Republican U.S. House delegation appear to be at an *impasse* on how to take reapportionment away from the Demo governor and Demo-controlled Legislature. Without agreement on a common strategy, Unz and his Demo partner, former acting Sec. of State Tony Miller, will go forward with a campaign finance reform initiative (Plan D) that does **not** include reform of the reapportionment process. Here's our update & analysis...

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310)659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHTED BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SECRETARY OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

...Unz, the Silicon Valley businessman who authored **Prop. 226** which ended bilingual education in Calif., hoped to persuade GOP U.S. Reps. Bill Thomas and Tom Campbell, plus Calif. GOP Legislative leaders, that his plan to reform the campaign contribution & finance laws was the best way to **also** pass reapportionment reform. FYI: in order to sell reapportionment reform (sometimes called remapping) most sources agree the remapping part of the plan must have some *good cover*. Remapping by itself is dull and voters don't understand it. That's why there must be a good *disguise* – such as campaign finance reform...

...Good vs. bad disguise. Twice before the GOP has tried to take remapping away from the Calif. Legislature via the initiative, only to be mashed at the polls by the Demos. Unz/Miller Plan A was the comprehensive campaign finance & remapping reform initiative, promoted by Unz as the GOP problem solver. It limits contributions in Statewide and legislative races, provides for instant internet disclosure, bans corporate contributions, but it also includes a public matching funds element...

...Sources think that the GOPers who rejected Unz's Plan A could have lived with most of what was there *except* for the matching funds. According to our sources, private polling showed that public matching funds has a *poison pill impact* on the whole initiative. Unz doesn't buy that argument, but as one source told **Calpeek**, "Ron is smart, but sometimes he doesn't realize other people can be right too." About the only folks who embraced Unz/Plan A were some leaders of the CA Republican Party and the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal. The WSJ editorial of May 5th called "The Ostrich Party," says that despite its flaws, Unz/Plan A is better than a computer-drawn gerrymander in 2000...

...So as **Calpeek** hit deadline, it looked as though Plan D by Unz/Miller will be the one circulated by Santa Monica-based Progressive Campaigns, beginning the week of May 17th...

...FYI: Unz says that since you can't have 2 remapping initiatives on the same ballot, he'll endorse whichever plan the GOP powers-that-be come up with, even though he thinks their plans (they have 4-5 different versions) are weak compared to his. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on key legislative races for 2000...

☒ **Brulte's Decision** – GOP Senate Caucus Leader Jim Brulte's decision to give donations from his personal warchest *only* to women or minority GOP candidates in the 2000 campaign cycle is drawing both praise and fire. Brulte says the GOP's message is solid, but there is a need for a more diverse group of *messengers*. The Inland Empire lawmaker's decision applies only to *open seats*, but could go beyond the State Senate to include Assembly and local contests...

☒ **19th SD** – Former Oxnard Assemblyman Nao Takasugi(R) says he'll make a decision by June 1st on whether or not to run for Sen. Cathie Wright's OPEN 19th SD in 2000. Takasugi, 77, suffered a heart attack last year – so health is a consideration. And if Takasugi were to run, what would his candidacy do in the two-way race now underway between Ventura Co. Sup. Judy Mikels and Assemblyman Tom McClintock(R)? Some think Takasugi and Mikels would split the anti-McClintock GOP primary vote, assuring McC of a win...

☒ **7th SD** – Sources expect Demo Assemblyman Tom Torlakson of Antioch to announce that he'll challenge incumbent GOP State Sen. Richard Rainey next year. Our sources say the person pushing Torlakson the hardest to run is Demo Senate PPT John Burton (no surprise)...

☒ **45th AD** – By the time this issue of **Calpeek** hits up north, our sources expect that L.A. Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg(D) will have announced for this seat now held by Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa(D), who is *termed out*...

☒ **70th AD** – Although auto dealer John Campbell has lined up a ton of endorsements, sources in Orange Co. don't think this GOP activist will get a free ride. Far from it. This AD is now represented by Marilyn Brewer(R-Newport Beach), who is *termed out*. So far, Brewer is neutral. Our sources say there are at least four other GOPers looking things over. They include Irvine Councilman Barry Hammond (who ran against Brewer in '94); Newport Beach Councilwoman Jan Debay; water district board member Peer Swan (who

has *deep pockets*); and attorney/community college trustee Walt Howald. Howald also has \$\$\$. Our sources think there's a 50/50 chance that Howald and/or Swan will run. No Demo names to surface because the 70th AD is heavy GOP turf...

CAMPAIGN '99: UPDATE ON THE S.F. MAYOR'S RACE.

Editor's note: Here's a brief update on San Francisco politics, especially the Nov. 2nd mayor's race...

...Unlike local politics in L.A., the news media in S.F. loves to cover this race between the flashy incumbent Willie Brown and former campaign consultant-turned real estate investor Clint Reilly. But there's just no doubt that incumbency has its advantages, especially in attracting news media coverage...

...Here's an example: Brown calls a down-and-dirty news conference announcing that he wants to confiscate the cars of drug buyers and every camera in town shows up, plus all the print media too. And he even gets lots of ink on endorsements. The S.F. POA endorsed Brown again and it was the lead item in the Matier & Ross column in the *S.F. Chron*...

...Reilly's attempt to get coverage goes like this: he calls on Brown to release all his taxes (which Willie will do). But when the tables were turned and Reilly was asked to release his corporate tax returns, it was no dice. They don't call the mayor *Slick Willie* for nothing! So Reilly is now on tv with some bio spots. The tv ads also can be seen on Reilly's website at www.clintreilly.com. FYI: one source told **Calpeek** that Reilly could pull a Frank Jordan and take a shower with naked DJs and still get no coverage...

...FYI: Brown has started to assemble his team. Consultant Jack Davis and Eric Jaye & Michael Terris (Terris & Jaye) are aboard, as is daily mgr. Fred Hamden. More staff announcements are due later...

...In addition to the mayor's race, S.F. DA Terence Hallinan is up this year. Hallinan could be in trouble if there's a candidate who shows up on his left because the city's lib establishment is POed at Hallinan for charging the people who hit Mayor Willie with a pie. Remember that? There is speculation that Bill Fazio, who ran last time, may try again...

...P.S. What's most interesting in S.F. are the ballot measures that are trying to qualify. One measure which will require 10,200 signatures is being pushed by Bd. of Supes Chair Tom Ammiano and his allies at CALPIRG. It would ban double fees for customers who use ATM machines. If this measure qualifies, sources believe Solem & Associates will handle the NO side. And then there's the measure which would allow the closed gay bathhouses to be reopened. The measure is being pushed by Community United for Gay Sexual Privacy. How many gays died in S.F. from AIDS? Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '99: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: More election results to report and an update on the June 8th L.A. Muni runoff election, including a brief update on Charter Reform...

◆ ***Beverly Hills*** – A local initiative placed on the ballot by the *politically correct crowd* to require tags be placed on **furs** (telling customers how the animals were killed) was **defeated** May 11th by a margin of 3,363 NO vs. 1,908 YES. Funny thing is that supporters of this initiative (which got both local as well as national tv and print press attention) collected 3,000 signatures to force the city to put this initiative on a special ballot (costing Beverly Hills \$60-Gs)...

◆ ***L.A. Charter Reform*** – *The Coalition for Charter Reform* who back the ballot measure to reform L.A. City's 75-year-old charter kicked off their campaign May 6th, but only 1 major tv station covered this photo op/news conference. Truth is that charter reform as a story isn't visual (it's just talking heads), so the idiot assignment editors decided to pass – even though the story itself is of vital importance to L.A. City voters. So if you only get your news from the tube, then Mayor Richard Riordan's PRO-reform pitch went largely unnoticed...

...Meanwhile, the opponents (*L.A. Taxpayers for Good Govt.*) picked up the backing of Council President John Ferraro. In **Calpeek's** May 3rd story, Ferraro was not listed as an opponent (because he had not formally declared, although it was obvious he was leaning against this reform plan). By our count there are now **8** councilmembers against; **3** in favor; **3** with no announced position (Chick, Ridley-Thomas & Hernandez); and **1** council vacancy (7th District)...

...In addition to *L.A. Taxpayers for Good Govt.*, a 2nd anti-charter reform group has been formed: *Not This Charter Coalition*, co-chaired by Bill Powers and Elected Charter Reform Commissioner Paula Boland (818)773-9800...

◆ **Bell Gardens** – Mayor Joaquin Penilla, Mayor Pro Tem David Torres and Councilman Salvador Rios were *recalled* May 11th and replaced by Pedro Aceituno, Teresa Cabrera and Rogelio S. Rodriguez. The recall was organized by Councilwoman Maria Chacon, who was on the short end of a constant 3-2 council. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Update on San Diego Mayor's Race** – It appears State Sen. Steve Peace (D-El Cajon) has taken himself out of next year's contest to replace Susan Golding as chief executive of Calif.'s 2nd largest city. Instead, Peace has opened a campaign committee for Calif. Sec. of State. GOP SOS Bill Jones is *termed out* in 2002 and so Peace's decision means he's the first to take a step in this direction. The decision by Peace isn't final and filing for mayor doesn't open until November. He could change his mind...

■ **Garcetti Gets a Break** – In what would certainly have been a very high profile trial, with huge political consequences, L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti got a huge break when Michelle Holden, wife of former Pasadena Mayor Chris Holden (and daughter-in-law of L.A. Councilman Nate Holden), pled no contest to a single felony count of unlawful sex with an teenaged boy. The plea bargain means Holden will avoid prison. Formal sentencing is June 22nd. Holden's attorney, Mark Geragos, had said the charges by the DA were "politically motivated," but Holden is no Susan McDougal...

■ **The 187 Brouhaha** – It's been several weeks since Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante (D) went public with his criticism of Gov. Gray Davis' decision to mediate the *Prop. 187* dispute – rather than just dropping the appeal (as Bustamante and some other Latino leaders had wanted). What's most interesting is that a number of Latino Demo lawmakers are now openly siding with Davis, including Assemblyman Gil Cedillo. And here's

what's even more interesting: there are now some GOP types who originally supported 187 who are now having *second thoughts*. Why? Prop. 187 has come back to bite the GOP right where it hurts, in GOP registration. And if the Prop. 187 appeal goes forward and it gets to the U.S. Supreme Court, watch out. If the court were to overturn that 1982 decision allowing kids of illegals to attend public schools – well the GOP could kiss off the Hispanic vote in Calif. for a long, long time...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- A sad note: Eric Shuman, 64, a former assignment editor at Channel 2 in L.A. and editor of City News Services in the 1970s, died Apr. 28 in Pleasanton after a long illness. R.I.P...
- Denise Delmatier heads the Sacto lobbying and govt. affairs office for Norcal Waste Systems...
- Lynn Le Roy of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has been reelected as Exec. Secretary of the Nat'l Indian Gaming Assn. (NIGA)...
- Julie Marengo has rejoined Nelson Communications Group, working in the firm's Sacto office in the campaign division...
- Tony Bell, former CRP communications director, has been hired as exec. director of Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA). He'll be working out of the tort reform/watchdog group's L.A. office...
- Pacific Research and Strategies has added Larry Forbes, Marti Taylor and Robert Almanzar to its grassroots PR firm...

UPDATE ON CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY

All three covers for the 1999-2000 *Millennium Edition* of Calpeek's Directory of Campaign Consultants have now been sold. The Englander Group has the back outside cover, Jerry Seedborg has purchased the front inside cover and Leslie Goodman has purchased the back inside cover. Advertising deadline is June 18th. Note to consultants: if you haven't mailed or faxed your questionnaire to Calpeek, let's get moving. We anticipate going to press in early July. If you have questions about the Directory, please call Dick Rosengarten (310)659-0205...